

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of allocating PID values to a program in a digital transport stream, the digital transport stream including at least one program including a plurality of elementary streams, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining from a map of session numbers an unassigned session number, wherein the map of session numbers is an array of elements, each element of the array is associated with a session number and has an unassigned state and an assigned state;
 - (b) receiving a first session message having a first program identifier included therein;
 - (c) assigning a first session number to a first session, wherein the first session number is the determined unassigned session number, and wherein the first session is associated with a first program having a plurality of elementary streams;
 - (d) associating a first PMT_PID value with the first session number;
 - (e) assigning a first set of PID values to the elementary streams of the first program;
 - (f) indicating in a map of allocable PID values the assigned PID values; and
 - (g) transmitting from a device the elementary streams of the program in a digital transport stream.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:
associating the first session number with an output port, wherein the first program that is associated with the first session is transmitted from the output port.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) A method of allocating PID values to a program in a digital transport stream, the digital transport stream including at least one program including a plurality of elementary streams, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining from a map of session numbers an unassigned session number, wherein the map of session numbers is an array of elements, each element of the array is associated with a session number and has an unassigned state and an assigned state;
 - (b) assigning a session number to a session, wherein the session number is the determined unassigned session number, and wherein the session is associated with a program having a plurality of elementary streams;

- (c) associating a PMT_PID value with the session number;
 - (d) assigning a set of PID values to the elementary streams of the program; and
 - (e) indicating in a map of allocable PID values the assigned PID values,
wherein the elements of the array are checked based upon their index values in the array, and the element having the lowest index value and an unassigned state is assigned to the session.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each element of the array is associated with an output port.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the device that transmits the first program has a plurality of output ports that are adapted to transmit digital transport streams, and the first session message further includes an output port identifier that identifies the output port of the plurality of output ports from which the elementary streams of the first program are transmitted.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the first session is associated with the output port identified by the output port identifier.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further including the steps of:
receiving a second session message having a second output port identifier and a second program indicator included therein, wherein the second program indicator identifies a second program, wherein the second output port identifier identifies an output port, and wherein the steps (c), (d), and (e) are implemented to assign a second session number to a second session that is associated with the second program, associate a second PMT_PID value to the second session number and assign a second set of PID values to the elementary streams of the second program; and
transmitting from the output port identified by the second session message the elementary streams of the second program.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the output port associated with the first session is different from the second output port, the first and second session numbers are the same, and the first and second PMT_PID values are the same.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the first program and the second program are the same program, and the first and second set of PID values assigned to the elementary streams of the program are the same.
13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the output port associated with the first session is the same as the second output port, and the numerical values of the first and second PMT_PID values are related to the numerical values of the first and second session numbers.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - allocating a first set of PID values for use as PMT_PIDs, wherein only PIDs from the first set of PID values are associated with PMT packets; and
 - allocating a second set of PID values for assignment to elementary streams of programs, wherein only PIDs from the second set of PID values are assigned to elementary streams of a program.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a digital network that includes a transport stream having a plurality of programs included therein, wherein a program is defined by a set of elementary streams, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for assigning a unique session number to a session, wherein each session is associated with a program having a plurality of elementary streams;
 - means for assigning a unique PMT_PID value to each session, wherein the PMT_PID value is associated with a PMT;
 - means for allocating a set of PIDs to the plurality of elementary streams for the program, wherein the allocated set of PIDs is referenced in the PMT; and
 - a plurality of output ports, each output port adapted to transmit a transport stream having at least one program, wherein each program transmitted from an output port is associated with a the-unique session number,wherein a first output port transmits a first transport stream, which includes a first program having a first program number associated therewith, a second output port transmits a second transport stream, which includes a second program having a second program number, which is different than the first program number, associated therewith, the first and second programs each having a PMT identified by a PMT_PID value associated therewith, and the first and the second PMTs have the same PID values.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the value of the PMT_PID assigned to the session is related to the session number of the session.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the number of PIDs in the set of allocated PIDs is no more than the number of elementary streams of the program.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of allocated PIDs have values that are not contiguous.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the first and second programs are the same particular program, and the elementary streams of the particular program have the same PID values in the first and second transport stream.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Canceled)
25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus in a digital network that includes a transport stream having a plurality of programs included therein, wherein a program is defined by a set of elementary streams, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for assigning a session number to a session, wherein a session is associated with a program of the transport stream;
 - means for assigning a PMT_PID to the session;
 - means for allocating a set of PIDs to a set of elementary streams of a program;
 - a first input port adapted to receive a session message having a program identifier and an output port identifier included therein, wherein the output port identifier identifies an output port of the plurality of output ports; and
 - a second input port in communication with the plurality of output ports, the second input port adapted to receive a transport stream having a plurality of programs included therein,

wherein the plurality of programs include a first program associated with the program identifier;

wherein the means for assigning a session number uses the session message to assign a session number for a further session associated with the identified output port, thereby including the first program in the transport stream transmitted from the identified output port.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for assigning a session number includes a session number map.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the session number map is an array of elements having a first and second state, each element is associated with a session number, the first state representing an unassigned session number and the second state representing an assigned session number

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the means for assigning a session number searches the array of elements for an element in the first state and assigns the session number associated with that element to the session, and changes the state of that element of the array to the second state.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each element of the array is associated with a PMT_PID.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, further including:
a plurality of output ports, each output port adapted to transmit a transport stream therefrom; and
wherein the means for assigning session numbers includes a session number map, the session number map including a plurality of arrays, each array associated with an output port of the plurality of output ports.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein each array of the plurality of arrays includes a plurality of elements and each element is associated with a PMT_PID value.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for allocating a set of PID values includes a PID allocation map.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the PID allocation map includes an array of elements associated with PID numbers.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, further including:
a plurality of output port, each output port of the plurality of output ports is adapted to transmit a
transport stream having at least one program included therein; and
wherein the PID allocation map includes a plurality of arrays, each array of the plurality of arrays
including a plurality of elements and each array is associated with an output port, each element of the
plurality of elements is associated with PID numbers.

35-38. (Canceled)